

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A permanent antimicrobial melamine resin, comprising: melamine and at least one antimicrobial agent, wherein one of the antimicrobial agents is an isothiazolone based compound.
2. The permanent antimicrobial melamine resin claimed in claim 1, wherein the isothiazolone based compound is selected from the group consisting of 1,2-benzisothiazolin-3-one, N-butyl-1,2-benzisothiazolin-3-one, 2-octyl-isothiazolone, 4,5-dichloro-2-N-octyl-3(2H)-isothiazolone, methyl-3(2H)-isothiazolone, and chloro-2-methyl-3(2H)-isothiazolone.
3. A decorative laminate that has antimicrobial properties throughout its entire life, comprising:
 - an overlay sheet impregnated with a melamine resin containing an antimicrobial agent in a dispersion, wherein one of the antimicrobial agents is an isothiazolone based compound;
 - a printed paper sheet impregnated with a melamine formaldehyde;
 - a high density core fiberboard impregnated with a phenolic or melamine resin.
4. The permanent antimicrobial melamine resin according to claim 2, is further comprised of at least one other antimicrobial agent that is a chemical selected from the group consisting of triclosan, ortho phenyl phenol, diiodomethyl *p*-tolylsulfone, zinc pyrithiones, sodium pyrithiones, azoles such as propiconazoles, poly(hexamethylene biguanide) hydrochloride, 3,4,4'-trichlorocarbanilide, barium monohydrate and silver, copper or zinc in zeolite or amorphous glass powder.

5. A decorative laminate that has antimicrobial properties according to claim 3, is further comprised of at least one other antimicrobial agent that is a chemical selected from the group consisting of triclosan, ortho phenyl phenol, diiodomethyl *p*-tolylsulfone, zinc pyrithiones, sodium pyrithiones, azoles such as propiconazoles, poly(hexamethylene biguanide) hydrochloride, 3,4,4'-trichlorocarbanilide, barium monohydrate and silver, copper or zinc in zeolite or amorphous glass powder.
6. The permanent antimicrobial melamine resin as claimed in claim 4, wherein said at least one other antimicrobial agent is preferably triclosan.
7. The decorative laminate that has antimicrobial properties throughout its entire life, as claimed in claim 3 further comprising a second high density core fiberboard impregnated with a phenolic or melamine resin.
8. The decorative laminate that has antimicrobial properties throughout its entire life, as claimed in claim 3, wherein said laminate is cured in a press at pressures ranging from 1000 to 1500 psi, at temperatures ranging from 170 to 210°C with a preferred temperature of 190°C.
9. The permanent antimicrobial melamine resin, according to claim 1, wherein the weight percent addition of the antimicrobial agent is 0.1 to 5% on the weight of the melamine resin, with a preferred range of 0.3 to 1.0%.
10. The decorative laminate as claimed in claim 3, wherein the weight percent addition of the antimicrobial agent is 0.1 to 5% on the weight of the melamine resin, with a preferred range of 0.3 to 1.0%.